

WILDLIFE AND BOAT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
4016 WEST BROAD STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
October 1, 2007 2:00pm

Present: John W. Montgomery, Committee Chairman, James W. Hazel, Board Chairman (participating by phone), Tom Stroup (participating by phone); **Absent:** Sherry Crumley, Charles Yates and Ward Burton; **Director:** J. Carlton Courter, III; **Senior Staff:** Colonel Mike Bise, Gary Martel, Charlie Sledd, David Whitehurst and Bob Duncan.

Mr. Montgomery called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. He stated for the record that a quorum was not present for the meeting and no official action or recommendations could be taken at this meeting. This meeting is a briefing by the staff on the proposed final regulations that will be brought before the Board during the October 16th Board Meeting. Mr. Montgomery stated the meeting would be called into recess at 2:30pm due to a family emergency and would reconvene at 3:30pm.

Mr. Montgomery called for public comments. Four guests were present to make public comments on the proposed Mallard Release Regulation. Mr. Montgomery allowed the comments to proceed since these persons would not be able to stay until the meeting reconvened at 3:30.

Mr. Bill Carter, Midlothian, Virginia spoke against the prohibition of releasing captive reared mallards. He asked the Committee and the Board to consider tabling the regulation until a further study can be conducted.

Mr. Pinson Neal, Powhatan, Virginia spoke against the prohibition of releasing captive reared mallards until a further study can be conducted. Mr. Neal has also worked with the DGIF DMAP Program.

Mr. Phil Hughes, Richmond, Virginia spoke against the prohibition of releasing captive reared mallards until a further study can be conducted.

Mr. C. Niels Elam, Jr. registered to speak but declined comment and indicated to staff that he just wanted to attend in case any discussion occurred about captive mallards and dog training. He indicated to staff that he was in favor of the recommendation not to prohibit captive mallards to be used during dog training season.

Mr. Montgomery thanked everyone for coming and called a recess at 2:23pm.

Mr. Montgomery reconvened the meeting and called everyone to order at 3:50pm. Mr. Montgomery thanked everyone for their attendance and called for additional public comments.

Mr. Montgomery recognized Mr. Vins Thornhill. Mr. Thornhill made a brief presentation to the committee on finding a middle ground for the near future of Released Mallard Hunting in Virginia. Mr. Thornhill's presentation stated that his was in opposition to the proposed regulation regarding captive mallard releases.

A brief discussion was held by the staff, Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Stroup, Mr. Hazel and Mr. Thornhill regarding the proposed release of captive reared mallards.

Mr. Sledd of Boating Safety stated the parasail regulations will not go forward to the Board for review and approval. The regulation should be ready for review at the January, 2008 meeting. Mr. Sledd will schedule a meeting with the parasail operators located in Virginia Beach, Virginia to obtain their input to the regulation.

Mr. Gary Martel of the Fisheries Division stated that comments received on proposed regulations have been nearly 100% positive. Some of the comments are ambiguous and wanted us to do more regulating. There will be a minor recommended change related to the herring proposals.

Colonel Bise stated that Law Enforcement plans to bring the Model Ordinances to the Board as proposed. They have been supported. Law Enforcement has received a request from Goochland County separate from the public comments to propose a model ordinance or code change to prohibit turkey hunting with rifles. Colonel Bise has notified the county that it would take a legislative change.

Mr. David Whitehurst stated comments have been submitted to leave the Bald Eagle on the endangered species list for Virginia. There will be a few minor changes in the proposed regulations as presented to the Board for their final approval.

Mr. Bob Duncan stated they would not be recommending 4 of the proposed regulations to the Board for final adoption: (1) Use of body gripping traps half submerged in water (15-40-190); (2) change in snare height (15-40-220); allow coyotes in fox pens(15-110-75) and (4) prohibiting use of captive reared mallards during open dog training season (15-40-70).

Mr. Montgomery called for additional comments. Mr. Hazel stated that he had received numerous calls on the unplugged shotgun regulation. Mr. Hazel has asked the Director to consult with Attorney General's office on the law regarding the shotgun shells.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:06pm. The next meeting date is to be announced.